



November 8, 2005

The Honorable Kevin Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

IB Docket No. 05-221

Dear Chairman Martin:

It has come to my attention that the FCC has set as one of its highest priorities efforts to accelerate developing broadband access in America. In my capacity as Executive Director for the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association, I strongly urge that the Commission support solutions that will expand broadband coverage in rural parts of America. Despite significant broadband coverage throughout the U.S., many areas still have inadequate coverage. I believe that the satellite industry, because of its ability to provide service everywhere, is one sector that can play a vital role in bringing broadband to millions more Americans.

I understand technology exists which will allow cell phones to receive a signal from either a cell tower or a satellite. In order to overcome the high cost typically associated with mobile satellite systems, we are looking forward to the availability of advanced hybrid satellite/terrestrial systems. A hybrid network will allow a cell phone user to use a cell phone on existing cell towers or to use a satellite network if the cell phone network is inoperative. This assures virtually every location in the U.S. will receive broadband access, especially rural and underserved areas.

In light of the recent natural disasters that have occurred, I feel that pursuing the opportunity to enhance communication capabilities is of paramount importance. Members of our association play critical roles in their local communities when disaster response is required. In fact many of our 650 member professionals from across Alabama volunteered their services to the coastal communities that were impacted by hurricane Katrina. Further, a significant number of park and recreation facilities served as shelters following this storm, a task they perform whenever the need arises. As we have learned the inability to maintain landline or current cell services played a significant role in delaying information and much needed disaster relief.

I understand that the Commission will soon determine whether to divide the remaining one-third of the 2 GHz mobile satellite service ("MSS") spectrum between TMI/TerreStar Networks Inc. ("TerreStar") and ICO Satellite Services ("ICO") or take another approach.

I strongly urge the FCC to move expeditiously on this item and support the allocation of this spectrum on a "2x10" basis to these two satellite operators that have already demonstrated a commitment to compete and offer these services. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Morton

ARPA Executive Director

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Secretary of the Commission